

PART III: Five-Year Child and Family Services Plan 2005-2009

(1) Strategic Plan Chaffee Amendment January 2005

**Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services**

**Children's Administration
Child and Family Services Plan
Chaffee Foster Care Independence Program Amendment
January 2005**

Per federal request, Children's Administration (CA) presents the following information as an addendum to our June 30, 2004 Child and Family Services Plan.

Eligibility for the Chafee programs is as follows:

I. Independent Living Services (ILS)

Children ages 13 and 14 who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18 are eligible for regionally based tutoring programs if they are dependent and in the legal custody of CA or in Tribal out-of-home care.

Youth ages 15 to 18, dependent and in the legal custody of CA or in Tribal out-of-home care are eligible for any contracted independent living program.

Youth previously eligible for ILS services for at least 6 months will retain their eligibility until their 18th birthday provided that one of the following events has occurred:

- youth was adopted on or after his/her 16th birthday; *or*
- youth was placed in a third-party guardianship on or after his/her 16th birthday.

Youth not eligible for ILS are those who:

- were adopted or placed under a third-party custody order before the age of 13 years old; *or*
- who are under a voluntary placement agreement; *or*
- who are under a CHINS petition.

II. Transitional Living Program

Youth are eligible for contracted transitional living programs from age 18 up to their 21st birthday if they

- were eligible for ILS at their 18th birthday, *or*
- had an open CA case at the time they transitioned out of care, and had either been in out-of-home care for the previous six months prior to transition from care, *or* was dependent and returned home within a year of reaching the age of majority (18).

III. Education and Training Vouchers

Youth must meet eligibility criteria for either Independent Living Services or Transitional Living Services as well as meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for Education and Training Voucher services:

- a. Youth must have completed high school or have a GED;
- b. Youth must either:
 - (1) be enrolled in a full-time or half-time post-secondary degree or certificate program; or
 - (2) be accepted for the next term.
- c. Students who have been receiving vouchers on their 21st birthday who are continuing to make acceptable progress towards graduation may continue to receive vouchers up to age 23.
- d. The student must be making acceptable progress toward graduation to continue receiving voucher assistance, as specified in the Washington State Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Services Guidebook.
- e. Post-secondary education and training schools which qualify for Education and Training Vouchers may include:
 - (1) A university (4 year college),

- (2) Community college (2 year), or
- (3) Vocational/trade school. The school must be accredited by a nationally accredited agency or by one of the six regional accreditation boards, must have been granted pre-accreditation status, or offer a one-year state or nationally recognized certificate.

Room and board is made available to eligible youth ages 18 through 20 on an individual basis. Independent living case managers work with each youth to locate affordable housing, negotiate leases and make rent and utility payments. Rent subsidies are available as long as the youth is employed or seeking employment, or enrolled in an educational program.